Family Health and Safety Fair

Bellwood-Antis Public Library

Children

|

Tweens (10-12)

|

Teens

|

Young Adult

|

Adults

|

Intergenerational

Family Health and Safety Fair

Mar 7, 2018

Free

Byline
Jessica Ford Cameron, Director, Bellwood-Antis Public Library, Pennsylvania

The Family Health and Safety Fair is an event for the whole community. We offer a Run for Reading 5K, children's Zumba, a demonstration by local firefighters, screenings for cholesterol and seven other kinds of ailments, as well as informational booths for health services such as organ donation and kidney health.

Our 12th annual health fair and 5K were offered on Feb. 17, 2018.

Advanced Planning

This year's event was planned by a committee of four people: The PR director at the Tyrone Regional Health Network, the director of the Northern Blair County Recreation Center, my coworker and myself. We divvied up who was going to contact which vendors, and the only other thing we needed to do was get people to agree to come and get some extra tables. **(See the list of participating organizations under Attachments at right.)**

I just started working at this library in September, so this was my first time planning the fair, but I had attended in past years. I was surprised by how easily it came together, considering how elaborate it seemed as a spectator.

Marketing

Bellwood-Antis Public Library does not pay for marketing. A lot of the radio stations do free nonprofit events on-air, and local newspapers will run event listings.

Facebook has been a real boon to the budget-minded community library because it provides so many outreach opportunities we didn’t have before. We put the event on our Facebook, and that's how most people heard about it.

Budgeting

We didn't spend any money, but we could not have done this without the Tyrone Regional Health Network and the Northern Blair County Recreation Center.

Day-of-event Activity

We set out tables on Thursday evening, organizing them by topic. The kid-oriented offerings went in our children’s room, most of the health screenings were in one room, and the community organizations offering information were in another room.

We offered set-up times on two days. Some vendors came on Friday, but most came at around 8 a.m. on Saturday to set up their materials the morning of the event.

The 5K started at 8 a.m., and once the fair started at 10 a.m., library staff just circulated around, thanking people for coming and making sure their needs were being met.

Program Execution

A couple hundred people attended this year, which was lower than usual. This may have been because it was a little earlier this year; usually we offer the fair in March, but this year was in mid-February. The time of year affected the 5K too. They had 50 runners, which is a little lower than usual.

Overall, we had a great variety of vendors, with the ones offering health screenings for cholesterol, blood glucose, hearing, vertigo and other ailments being most popular. The fair has helped us build stronger relationships with other organizations, and some are returning to the library to offer programs for the community. DaVita Kidney Health will present a program in March on kidney care, and in April an area Lyme Disease support group will do a program on preventing Lyme Disease.

The week of the event I heard some people say they hadn’t heard about the fair this year, so I think that next year I need to not lean on Facebook so heavily and do more

community outreach or canvassing.

Advice

I would stress to my fellow librarians the necessity of getting help from a local hospital and/or community center, as well as local organizations dedicated to health and safety. The intent of the fair was to bring people together at the library in the interest of educating them about health and safety, but the relationship-building that has happened over the past 12 years is what has kept the fair going.

Did you try this program at your library? Share your experience using this form.

Supporting Materials

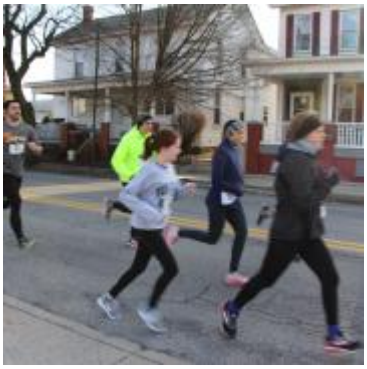
Document
health_fair_flier.pdf
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Image







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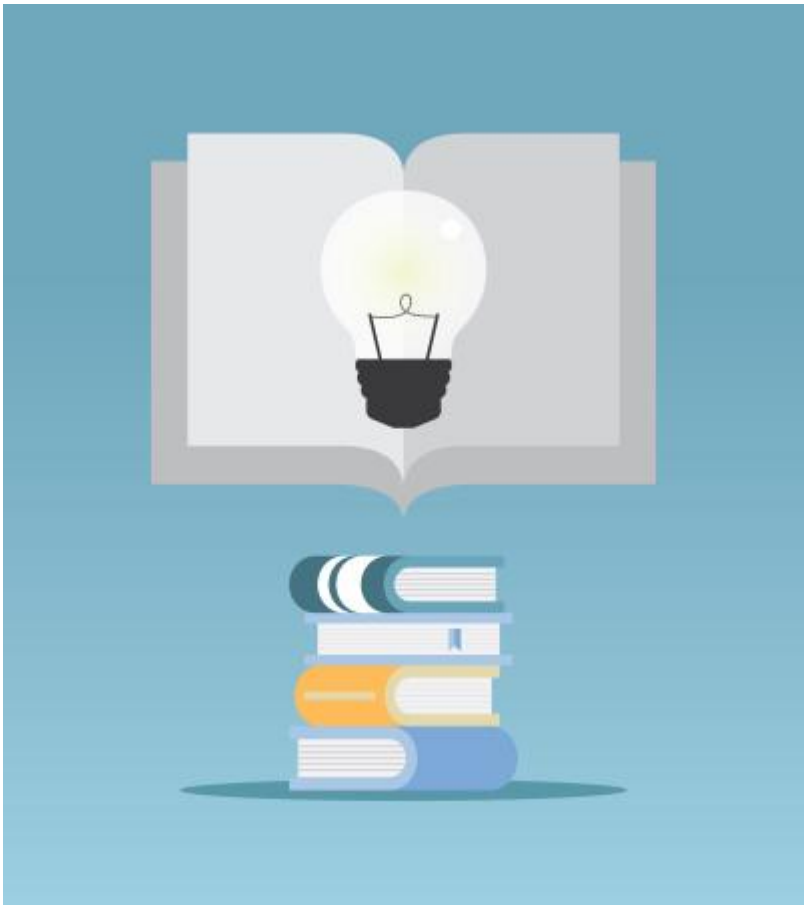
Dec 22, 2017
Children (9 and under)+ | $$
Image



Mechanicville Farmers Market & Garden

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Tweens (10-12)
Adults (21 and up)
Intergenerational
Jan 25, 2018
Adults (21 and up)+ | $$
Image



Library Resource Outreach Center/Health Central

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)
Feb 2, 2018
Children (9 and under)+ |
Image



DLD Health Literacy Initiative

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Tweens (10-12)
Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Adults (21 and up)
Intergenerational
Feb 5, 2018
Intergenerational+ | $$
Image



Senior Fitness Class and Chair Yoga

Audiences:

Intergenerational